THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Number of LPG Distributors in Thane & Kalyan HPC—7, and BPC—10.

(b) As on 1-10-92 there were 14.67 lakhs persons on waiting list in the State of Maharashtra. Clearance of waiting list depends on various[1] factors like product availability, location of distributorship number of person on waiting list, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The present policy of release of LPG connections is based on principle of distribution of connections, keeping in view the viability aspect of dealerships and average refill sale per month vis-a-vis the ceiling limit fixed in, terms of refill sale per month for the distributor. While no change in the policy is contemplated, efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections early to as many applicants as possible.

Irregularities in Placement of Order to P. J. Pipes by ONGC

2491. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is planning to place huge order running into crores of rupees for supply of casing pipes with controversy ridden M/s. P. J. Pipes and Vessels Limited for its projects involving stoppage of gas flamming at Bombay High;

(b) whether it i$_s$ also a fact that government also decided to place orders on M/s. Voest Alpine, Austria in anticipation of availability of Austrian credit the possibility of which is rated as remote;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. P. J. Pipes had defaulted on many occasions, to obtain orders for supply of casing pipes and that 70 MPs sought enquiry by CBI into alleged irregularities in placement of order to P. J. Pipes by ONGC on earlier occasion;

(d) in the light of various irregularities committed by M/s. P. J. Pipes as per record of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence *in 1990, what is the justification in favouring this firm; and

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(e) why has this firm not been blacklisted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) There is no such, proposal at present.

(b) Orders will be placed only if credit is available.

(c) It is alleged in the momrandum submitted by the MP's that M/s. P. J. Pipes evaded customs duty and committed fraud and despite this an order for linepipes was placed on the firm by ONGC.

(d) and (e) As ths irregularities com mitted by the firm related to matters con cerning Ministry of Commerce and Depart ment of Revenue like misuse of import licences and evasion of customs duty etc., apart from the panal actions taken by the Revenue authorities, Ministry of Com merce have also debarred the firm from receiving import licences etc. for a period of 2 years, subject to certain conditions.

Price preference to Indigenous Supplies by ONGC

2492. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI P. UPENDRA :
SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any price preference is given to indigenous supplies by ONGC when tenders are floated by ONGC and whether international companies also make bids for ONGC projects;

(b) if so, what is the criteria of price preference;

(c) whether value addition is the major criteria, if so, how they are calculated;

(d) whehter there is any uniform guidelines for all the Government Departments and also applicable to ONGC;